

# TULSA'S COLORED BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## State News Letter

### Street Railway Still Sick But Convalescing

An official report of the national condition of the electric railway industry for the year ending January 1, 1921, indicates a gradual and steady approach to a stable basis. Regulatory bodies seem to believe that rehabilitation of lines will be a slow process and that the present advanced rates must be maintained for some time even if falling costs, anticipated but not realized as yet) should come. A large majority of the companies in the last four years have strained their financial resources to the limit, or created actual deficits, by merely meeting current expenses and making absolutely unavoidable emergency improvements. Many badly needed improvements have been deferred by virtually every company on account of lack of funds.

The report just completed shows that 548 cities in the United States representing more than 90 per cent of the riding population in cities, are paying fares ranging from 5c with a 1c transfer charge to a flat rate of 10c.

The largest groups are: Cities paying a 10c fare, 112; 9c fare, 6; 8c fare, 6; 7c fare, 174; and 6c fare 124.

The immediate result of the wide spread inclination to adjust rates upward to the requirements of good service is found in the low number of electric railway receiverships for 1920. There were only 16 representing a total capital stock of \$25,313, 653 as compared with 48 receiverships, representing a capital stock of \$221,259,354 in 1919. During the year 450 miles of track were dismantled and 398 miles of track abandoned. No track construction was reported.

In practically every community there appears to be a desire on the part of the car riders to co-operate in an effort to make the lines self sustaining and to encourage a flow of new money into the industry.

### Company Claims High Operating Costs

The Yale Telephone Company on January 1, was granted an increase in rates by the Corporation Commission. The operating costs of this telephone company were shown to be such that it could not make a reasonable interest on its investment. The high cost of operation was mainly due to the high classed operatives. The Yale Telephone Company has a record of being one of the best operated telephone companies in Oklahoma.

### California Commissioner Talks Direct

In a recent address before the League of California Municipalities E. O. Edgerton, President of the California Railroad Commission, answered the criticism made by some people in regard to rate increases to meet existing conditions made by Public Service Commissions. He declared that the State's industrial progress depends upon an immense increase in the facilities of the public utility companies which expressed in money means the investment of many hundred million dollars in the next few years, and that there is no power to force investment in these securities, except through the adoption of a sound policy, which insures the investor that his property will be dealt with fairly and intelligently.

He said "You who are the official representatives of municipalities, have a very serious responsibility. It is important that you do not by mis-statement, either purposely or ignorantly, shake the confidence of the public in so important a matter as the regulation of public utilities. If you do so, you are doing your constituents a serious injury. You must recognize that these investments are made in the common good, that they develop communities, and that they are protected by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the state, designed to protect such investment against confiscation."

### Uniform Accounting System

The National Association of Rail way and Utility Commissions have adopted the theory and general plan of the uniform system of accounts for gas corporations. The members of this association are composed of the members of the state corporation commissions, public utility commissions and railroad commissions. Michigan is the first state which has ordered its gas utilities to follow this plan.

### OKMULGEE NEWS

The State Principals' Association, of which W. H. Fort, principal of the Okmulgee school, is chairman, has moved their battle line to the legislative halls of the great state of Oklahoma and now the men, who have been chosen to make just and equitable laws for the government of all the people are going to have an opportunity to line up on the side of JUSTICE TO THE SEPARATE SCHOOLS which schools have suffered for

all these years because of the lack of sufficient funds with which to purchase the equipment so necessary for the advancement rightly theirs.

Saturday, January 15, the legislative committee that has been working hard to find the best way, assembled in Douglass School, Okla. City, and after listening to a survey of many possible plans by their attorney gave orders to draw up a bill in keeping with the plan suggested—a copy of which will appear in a subsequent issue—and have same introduced immediately. This issue reaches the different parts of the state the first real concerted effort of the colored teachers to have the laws changed in such a way that relief may come to the separate schools will have been launched and the tucan sounded to all those interested to rally to the assistance of those who are really attempting to have this load lifted from the black man's shoulders and he be given a man's chance to get what the State owes every citizen, viz: an equal opportunity to drink at the fountain of knowledge.

Principals Fort, Okmulgee; Grissom, Muskogee; Hughes, Tulsa; Day Sapulpa; Bryant, Luther; Youngblood, Oklahoma City and Graham, Arcadia compose the legislative committee charged with the task of presenting the teachers' view of what is needed and to the assistance of these leaders every teacher, who hopes to be profited by the prospective changes, ought to come or remove himself from the ranks that only those who are not only willing to share in the good accomplished, or attempted, but who will assist in bearing the expense incident to the putting over of this great program will remain.

The Tulsa Star knows of the heavy obligations taken by this committee and the contracts entered into calling for large outlay of money no part of which outlay has as yet been sent in other than TWENTY FIVE Dollars from the County Association of Okmulgee which their first contribution. While Okmulgee county was the first to show a direct in pushing this battle there is every reason to believe that all the teachers in the State will vie with each other to render the aid necessary to carry out the plans and bring success. It will be to the eternal shame of the State Teachers' Association if there should be a turning aside to discuss matters calculated to defeat the plans.

It is the hope that the Inter-Racial Alliance will throw the weight of the personality of each member of its committee into this battle for fair play and that both sides, representing the best thought of the races and the purity of thought of those who favor a square deal may not lag behind in this matter, but will line up and push this bill to final passage.

We have talked with each member of the committee and find each encouraged and willing to sacrifice comfort and money to win a fight so much needed to be won.

Secretary Graham is preparing letters of explanation to be sent to all teachers as far as he can have their addresses while Chairman Fort is keeping himself informed on all sides and is calling the committee at any time needed without a thought as to the expense. "Get results now" said this leader, "and let the expense be put up to the loyal and appreciative teachers of the great State of Oklahoma." While the committee said "AMEN." The TULSA STAR will keep the public informed along all lines and gives its pledge to the cause of final victory and permanent relief to the colored schools.

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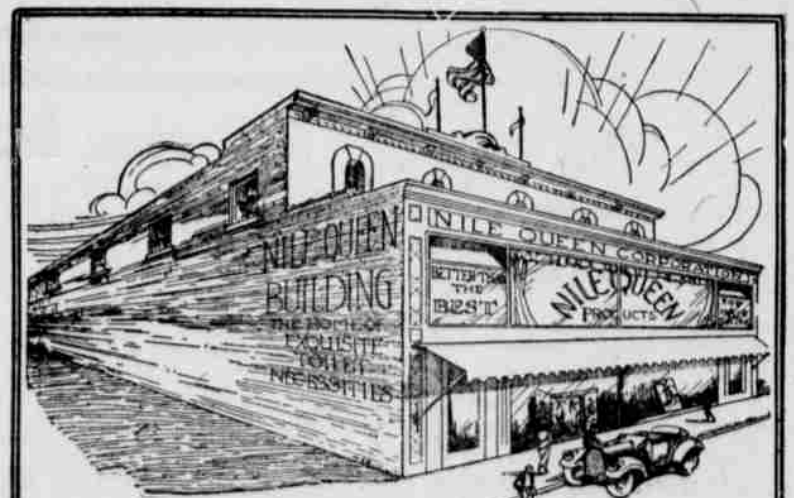
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